Last Update, October 1, 2004

170   **Independent Technical Authority Governance and Systems Management Office**

The Independent Technical Authority Governance and Systems Management Office reports to the Center Director and directs all Goddard Independent Technical Authority (ITA) and Systems Management Office (SMO) activities. The Office establishes and controls the budget for Goddard ITA/SMO activities and draws the ITA/SMO work force in a matrix fashion from throughout the Center. The ITA/SMO oversees and reviews flight project engineering activities and independently verifies the readiness of Goddard missions. The ITA/SMO controls flight project-related technical standards, directives, processes, and rules; assures compliance; and is the sole authority for waivers. It controls the policies, processes and tools for the identification, analysis, communication, trending, mitigation and acceptance of risks throughout a project life cycle. The ITA/SMO controls the Center processes and standards for engineering peer reviews, life cycle critical milestone reviews, and verification of launch, operational and disposal readiness of Goddard missions. It assures that Goddard is a learning organization with the tools to facilitate effective communication and support sound, knowledge-based decision making.

171   Rules and Processes Office

The Rules and Processes Office plans, organizes and directs Center-level activities related to the development and maintenance of, and compliance with, flight project-related directives, processes and rules. These include program/project management, systems engineering and engineering design rules. The office owns the risk management process and controls the policies, processes and tools for the identification, analysis, communication, trending, mitigation and acceptance of risks throughout the project life cycle. The office develops and maintains the review action, problem, anomaly and non-conformance reporting, characterization and trending policies, processes and systems. The Goddard Quality Management System, including the internal audit process, is administered by this office. The Rules and Independent Assessment Office controls the Center processes and standards for engineering peer reviews, life cycle critical milestone reviews, and independent verification of the launch, operational and disposal readiness of Goddard missions.